

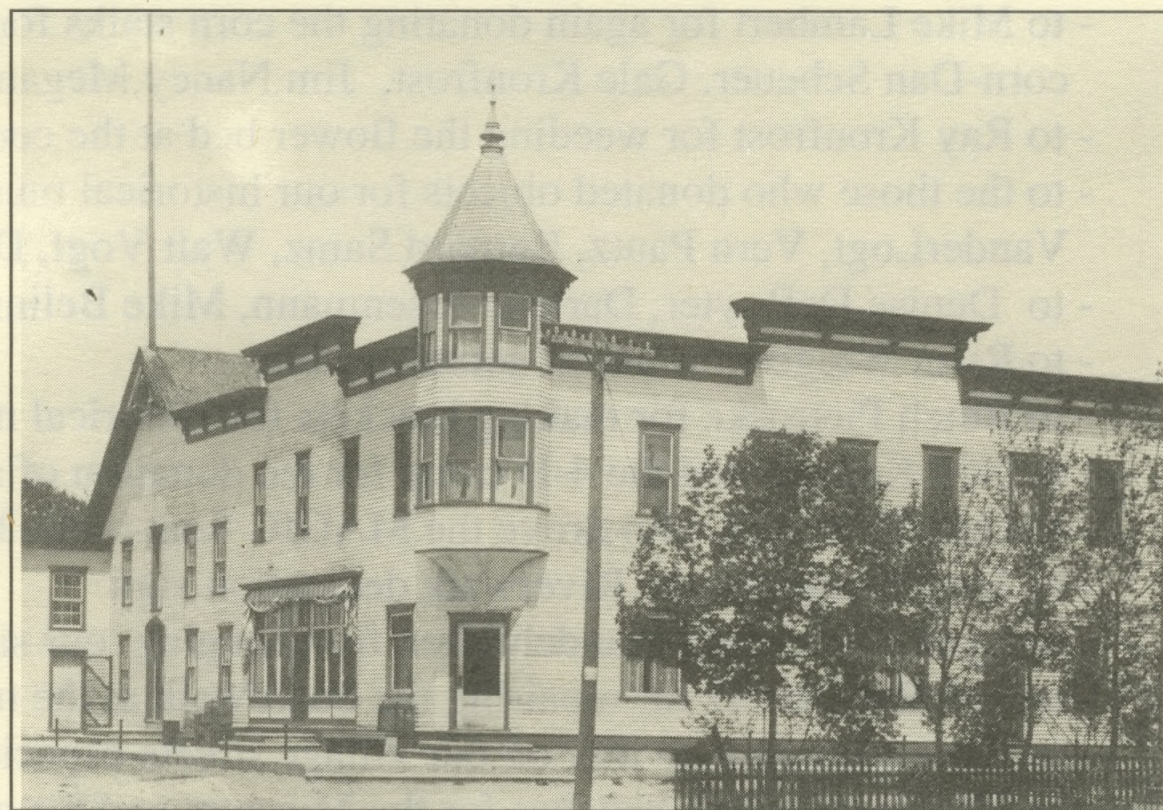
# Mishicot's Yesteryears

## THE OLD OPERA HALL by George Schmidt

Mishicot's Opera Hall is 112 years old. It was built in 1893 by Charles Levenhagen as an addition to the existing hotel and bar. The ice-cream parlor (and bowling alley at rear) were added later. Like many another small-town hall at the time, it was called an "Opera" Hall although it is doubtful whether any operas were ever given there. With size of about 60 x 60 feet, it was larger than most of the others.

After Charles' death in 1920, the hall, bar, and hotel were operated by Charles's son, Arthur ("Kelly") Levenhagen and his wife and family. Their daughter, Hazel Levenhagen, was a Mishicot primary teacher for many years. In the 1930's, 40's, and 50's especially, the hall was used for stage plays, concerts, basketball games, and other events for which the school auditorium was too small. The hall was also a frequent gathering place for dances, wedding parties, Lions' Club meetings, farmers' institutes, and occasionally shows by local talent (such as "TooNew" in the 20's) or by traveling entertainers.

In 1967 -- two years after Arthur's death -- the hall and hotel were sold to Mr. & Mrs. Frank Bremser, and continued to be operated much as before, including the serving of meals. Several of MAGIC's meetings and annual banquets were held there, as was a series of craft and antique



The Opera House as it appeared in the early 1900's

shows. Hotel guests through the years sometimes included construction workers from various sites in the area such as the nuclear power plant in Two Creeks.

In 1994, when the Opera Hall was just over a century old, it was purchased by the Huntington Family. It is now used mainly for antique sales and storage.

*Our thanks to Frank Bremser, Jim Sustman, the Two Rivers Lester Library and others for the information in this article. The Mishicot Museum has a tabletop model of the old hall which was made by Duane Jerabek in the 1970's. The Museum is interested in any other Opera Hall souvenirs which someone may donate. Also, any help which you can give us with future articles about Mishicot history will be much appreciated. Please phone 755-3411 or 755-2052.*



# **VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN !**

MAGIC / MAINSTREET and its programs depends on you, our volunteers.

Without you nothing could happen.

*Special thanks goes to the following summer volunteers.*

*We apologize to anyone we may have missed.*

- to the flower planters and care takers: Dan, Bob and Lisa Johannes, Bonnie DeMeyer, Tim Tetzlaff, Nona Pravechek, Val Brauom, Kristine Cracraft, Pam Rabas
- to Mike Lambert for again donating the corn stalks for decorating our village, and those who cut and setup the corn-Dan Scheuer, Gale Kronfrost, Jim, Nancy, Megan & Mike Cohen
- to Ray Kronfrost for weeding the flower bed at the cemetery
- to the those who donated objects for our historical museum this summer: Bill Zell, John Wilson, Francis VanderLogt, Vern Pautz, Bernard Samz, Walt Vogl, Darlene Eisenmann, Don Shebesta, Charles Cigler
- to Denise DeRuyter, Darlene Eisenmann, Mike Belinski and Green Acres for donations of plants and bulbs
- to Ryan Wiegert for use of sound system
- to Butch Pietroske for making brackets for historical markers
- to Neil Kemme and the 4-H camp for the donation of a wall display case for our museum
- to Gale Kronfrost who drove the MAGIC float in the Riverfest and Tish Mills parades.
- to Jerry Simac for the Riverwalk dedication sign
- to Lynn Stueck and grandchildren for changing our sign along Main Street
- to Lee Rocklewitz for repairing the boardwalk at the museum
- to those who pick up liter on our village streets-especially Bill Zell and Kitty Wichlacz.
- to FFA for painting benches for the Museum and for planting pumpkins for PumpkinFest
- to Linda and Andy Sauer for typing name tags for the docents at the museum,
- to Norman Schmidt for donations of pumpkins
- to all our docents that worked the museum this summer: Donna Benzinger, Bea & Gerhardt Cisler, Dale & Gail Coenen, Joan Funk, Lucy Graycarek, Milt Guex, Joan Hansen, Adeline Holmes, Bob & Delphi Jones, Dan & Dorothy Johannes, Peggy & Roger Karmann, Joan Krause, Robert & Helen Koch, Don & Elsie Kraynik, Grace Komoroske, Don & Johanna Pelischek, John & Mary Ann Rabitz, Grace Schleis, Mary Scheuer, Bob & Florence Scheuer, George Schmidt, Agnes Schmidt, Dorothy Schmoock, La Verne Skwor, Kevin & Marie Steeber, Janice Tetzlaff, Eleanor Thuermer, Betty & Bob Voelker, Joyce Wegner, and Kitty Wichlacz
- to Lorraine Krcma, Kitty Wichlacz, Gail Schamilec and Marcella Straka for helping in MAGIC office.
- to Clarence Meyer for donating two horse hitching posts
- to Craig & Mary Berken for passing out free birthday cake at The Old School anniverasy.
- to Chris Borkenhagen for building the picnic table on the Riverwalk
- to Bruce Berrres for cutting the tarp along the Riverwalk
- to the kids who passed out candy on the MAGIC float, Ty Meyer, Nick, Chistine, Andrea and Nathan Lohr, Sebastian Sustman, Josh Price and Shawn Wiegert
- to those who sold at the MAGIC concessions at the concerts: Mary Berken, Mary Ann Rabtz, Jo Ann Kliment, Ev Sustman and Nancy Peveler
- to those who helped setup and take down for the concerts, especially Cy Shillcox

## **WE ALSO SAY THANKS TO...**

the many volunteers too numerous to list that worked Riverfest 2005

and the sponsors who helped make it a very successful event.

Fox Hills for Mishicot Fest and the fireworks and all the other things you do for us.

The VFW and Auxiliary for a wonderful Memorial Day event.

Ship Builders Credit Union for a monetary donation to Pumpkin Fest.

The VFW Auxiliary for the donation of a tree for Riverwalk in memory of Mae Eisenmann

New Homestead Realty for allowing displays in vacant store fronts

the Lions Club for printing the museum flyers